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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/348,165	07/07/1999	AKIRA NAKAGAWA	826.1553/JDH	4844

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EXAMINER

WONG, ALLEN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/348,165

Applicant(s)

NAKAGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Allen Wong

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 11-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-16 and 20-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17-19 and 23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see appeal brief, filed 10/12/05, with respect to claims 11-23 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The final rejection of 11/18/04 has been withdrawn.
2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11-23 have been read and considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 11-16 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yagasaki (5,428,396).

Regarding claim 11, Yagasaki discloses a motion vector decoding device for decoding an encoding result which is obtained by encoding motion vectors of respective blocks obtained by partitioning each frame of moving image data, comprising:

predicting means for predicting a motion vector of a target block based on motion vectors of a plurality of blocks adjacent to the target block (see figs.1A and 1B, note the motion vector is predicted based on the target block or objective block surrounded by the plurality of adjacent blocks to the targeted or objective block within the same frame;

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also, see col.18, ln.1-13, the prediction is based on the strong spatial correlation of the motion vector values for adjacent blocks within a frame);

determining means for determining accuracy of a prediction made by said predicting means based on degrees of non-uniformity of the plurality of motion vectors (col.18, ln.1-13 and col.19, ln.11-63, note the table 5 discloses a plurality of VLC codes in that each VLC code has two values of motion vectors assigned to each VLC code, so clearly, there are non-uniform motion vector values); and

decoding means for decoding the motion vector of the target block by using a result of the prediction made by said predicting means with a decoding method determined based on a result of the determination made by said determining means (col.19, ln.43-63 and col.19, ln.63 to col.20, ln.6; since there are VLC codes to code the motion vector data, clearly, Yagasaki discloses the decoding means and process to decode these VLC codes).

Note claims 12-13 and claims 20-22 have similar corresponding elements. Also, note dependent claims 14-16 are rejected for the same reasons as set forth above for independent claims 11-13.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claim 5 is allowed.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the applicant has rewritten claim 5 into an independent form such that the current claim 5 incorporates the previous limitations of the claim 1. Since there are no

prior art references that teach or suggest the combination of limitations as disclosed in the current claim 5, it is considered patentable.

3. Claims 17-19 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

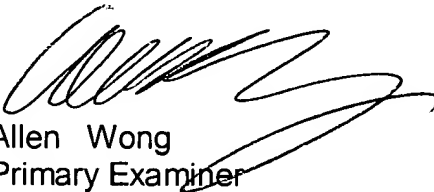
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not specifically disclose the limitations of said encoding means comprises: a plurality of individual decoding means for decoding the motion vector of the target block with unique decoding methods; and selecting means for selecting one of said plurality of individual decoding means based on the result of the determination made by said determining means, and for outputting a result of decoding performed by the selected individual decoding means, as disclosed in claims 17-19. Also, the prior art does not specifically disclose the limitation of wherein the motion vectors comprise first, second and third motion vectors said determining comprises: determining a first absolute value of difference between the first and second motion vectors, determining a second absolute value of difference between the second and third motion vectors, and determining a third absolute value of difference between the first and third motion vectors; comparing the first absolute value to the threshold, comparing the second absolute value to the threshold and comparing the third absolute value to the threshold; and indicating that the prediction is not accurate when any of the first, second and third absolute values are greater than the threshold.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-7341. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Thursdays from 8am-6pm Flextime.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Allen Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2613

AW
12/22/05